

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (new): An apparatus which may be used as a fluid distribution and control valve, said apparatus comprising:

- a) a valve body comprising at least four internal zones, wherein:
 - 1) said internal zones comprise a first zone; and
 - 2) said first zone is connectable to a user fluid circuit;
- b) at least four fluid passages, wherein each said fluid passage connects a corresponding said zone to an external fluid circuit; and
- c) a mobile structure, wherein:
 - 1) said mobile structure can be moved into at least four positions; and
 - 2) depending upon said movement of said mobile structure:
 - aa) fluid communication is established between at least two said zones;
 - bb) at least two other said zones are isolated from each other; and
 - cc) said first zone is selectively brought into communication with at least one other said zone.

Claim 12 (new): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein:

- a) said apparatus further comprises:
 - 1) a second zone, wherein said second zone is connectable to a first pressurized fluid source; and
 - 2) a third zone, wherein said third zone is connectable to a second pressurized fluid source; and
- b) said first and said second pressurized fluid sources supply said user fluid circuit sequentially.

Claim 13 (new): The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a fourth zone, wherein said fourth zone is connectable to a vent circuit.

Claim 14 (new): The apparatus of claim 11, wherein said mobile structure is connected to a positioning servomotor.

Claim 15 (new): The apparatus of claim 13, wherein:

- a) said mobile structure comprises a slide for sliding partition walls;
and
- b) said sliding walls define said zones.

Claim 16 (new): The apparatus of claim 15, wherein:

- a) said apparatus has an internal layout which is symmetrical with respect to a center plane; and
- b) said center plain is substantially perpendicular to said mobile structure.

Claim 17 (new): The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said first zone and said fourth zone are arranged:

- a) about said center plane; and
- b) on either side of said mobile structure.

Claim 18 (new): The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a pair of intermediate chambers, wherein said intermediate chambers are in permanent communication with said first zone.

Claim 19 (new): An apparatus which may be used for delivering respiratory gas to a passenger, said apparatus comprising a system for delivering respiratory gas to a passenger, wherein:

- a) said system comprises a fluid distribution and control valve; and
- b) said fluid distribution and control valve comprises:
 - 1) a valve body comprising at least four internal zones,
wherein:
 - aa) said internal zones comprise a first zone; and
 - bb) said first zone is connectable to a user fluid circuit;
 - 2) at least four fluid passages, wherein each said fluid passage connects a corresponding said zone to an external fluid circuit; and
 - 3) a mobile structure, wherein:

- aa) said mobile structure can be moved into at least four positions; and
- bb) depending upon said movement of said mobile structure;
 - i) fluid communication is established between at least two said zones;
 - ii) at least two other said zones are isolated from each other; and
 - iii) said first zone is selectively brought into communication with at least one other said zone.

Claim 20 (new): The apparatus of claim 19, wherein:

- a) said fluid distribution and control valve further comprises:
 - 1) a second zone, wherein said second zone is connectable to a first pressurized fluid source; and
 - 2) a third zone, wherein said third zone is connectable to a second pressurized fluid source; and
- b) said first and said second pressurized fluid sources supply said user fluid circuit sequentially.

Claim 21 (new): The apparatus of claim 20, wherein:

- a) said fluid distribution and control valve, further comprises a fourth zone; and
- b) said fourth zone is connectable to a vent circuit.

Claim 22 (new): The apparatus of claim 21, wherein:

- a) said fluid distribution and control valve further comprises a pair of intermediate chambers; and
- b) said intermediate chambers are in permanent communication with said first zone.

Claim 23 (new): The apparatus of claim 22, wherein:

- a) said first pressurized fluid source comprises a main oxygen source; and
- b) said second pressurized fluid source comprises an emergency oxygen source.